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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 HA-05 INR-10 INC-01 L-03
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-01 /065 W
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O R 2017052 AUG 79
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1848
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: SHUM, CT, UV
SUBJECT: FIVE NATION JURIST COMMISSION REPORT ON CAE

REF: A) STATE 214657 B) STATE 205727 (NOTAL)

1. AUGUST 17 GOVERNMENT DAILY GAVE STRAIGHTFORWARD COVERAGE TO FIVE-NATION JURIST COMMISSION REPORT AND CAE REBUTTAL. ARTICLE CARRIED COMMISSION FINDINGS THAT QUOTE 'THE MASSACRE OF A HUNDRED OR SO CHILDREN WAS PERPETRATED LAST APRIL UNDER THE ORDERS OF EMPEROR BOKASSA WITH HIS ALMOST CERTAIN PARTICIPATION....STRIKES IN JANUARY WERE ATROCIOUSLY CRUSHED AT BANGUI BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS UNQUOTE. ARTICLE DID NOT MENTION ROLE OF ZAIRIAN TROOPS IN
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STRIKES/MASSACRES. EQUAL TIME GIVEN TO STATEMENT BY

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BOKASSA QUOTE LEGAL ADVISOR MAMBA GARABOUM UNQUOTE WHO CRITICIZED BOTH REPORTS' ALLEGED ANTI-GOVERNMENT BIAS AND COMMISSION'S FAILURE TO GIVE CAE CHANCE TO DEBATE FINDINGS IN PRIVATE BEFORE REPORT MADE PUBLIC.

2. AUGUST 17 EDITION OF INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER L'OBSERVATEUR CARRIED BOKASSA PICTURE ON FRONT PAGE WITH HEADLINES "BANGUI MASSACRES, BOKASSA THE EXECUTIONER." ARTICLE ON BACK PAGE EXCERPTED AUGUST 16 STATEMENTS BY FIVE NATION JURIST COMMISSION PRESIDENT YOUSSOUF N'DIAYE DESCRIBING APRIL MASSACRES IN BANGUI AND BOKASSA'S ROLE IN THEM. ARTICLE ALSO QUOTED COMMISSION FUNDING THAT ZAIRIAN SOLDIERS "PARTICIPATED MASSIVELY IN THE MASSACRES." ARTICLE CONCLUDED WITH SCATHING COMMENTARY "IF IT IS TRUE THAT 1979 IS FATAL TO BLACK TYRANTS...WE LOOK FOR 1979 TO DRAW ITS SWORD AGAINST THE EXECUTIONER OF THE BANGUI INNOCENTS.

3. COMMENT: L'OBSERVATEUR IS SLIGHTLY LEFT OF CENTER POLITICALLY. ITS CONDEMNATION OF BOKASSA PROBABLY REFLECTS THE VIEWS OF MOST EDUCATED VOLTANS WHO DEPLORE BOKASSA AND HIS MISERABLE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD.

4. ADDITIONAL REACTIONS TO COMMISSION FINDING S WILL BE REPORTED AS AVAILABLE.BOYATT

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